

## NEIGHBOR SURVEY

Please mark 5 if you strongly agree, 1 is you strongly disagree.

In general, our state is heading in the right direction.

(AGREE) 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 (DISAGREE)

In general, our nation is heading in the right direction.

(AGREE) 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 (DISAGREE)

Overall, I think our state's economy is in good shape..

(AGREE) 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 (DISAGREE)

Our kids attending public schools are receiving the education they need to make them competitive in the work force.

(AGREE) 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 (DISAGREE)

Our health care system needs improvement, but it's basically okay.

(AGREE) 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 (DISAGREE)

More could be done to combat crime, but I generally feel safe in my community.

(AGREE) 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 (DISAGREE)

If you could change/add/delete one law in our state, what would it be?

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**State Representative**  
**Larry Seaquist**  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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The biggest issue facing our state is:

- a) the economy
- b) transportation/traffic
- c) property taxes
- d) health care
- e) crime/public safety
- f) Other comments/concerns

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*If there is not enough space to answer any of these questions, please use contact information in this newsletter.*



**Representative**  
**Larry Seaquist**  
**26th District**

**2008 Session Preview**

Dear Neighbors,

I go to Olympia to solve problems--the issues I hear about from you, in addition to the issues I care deeply about, like ensuring every state dollar is spent efficiently.

We've made great progress, but for everything we do, three more problems surface. Since last session, our ferry fleet has become insufficient, bad mortgages are threatening homes, and the health care situation continues to cut into family paychecks.

We have 60 days in Olympia. I've included my thoughts on some of what would be a successful session, but I've included a survey as well. As your representative, your input is invaluable.

Sincerely,



Larry

**State Representative**  
26th District  
Larry Seaquist  
Seaquist.Larry@leg.wa.gov

317 John L. O'Brien Bldg  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7802

**Website**  
[www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/seaquist](http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/seaquist)

**Legislative Hotline:**  
Toll-Free (800) 562-6000  
TDD (800) 635-9993

**Legislative Assistant:**  
Hannah Johnson  
Johnson.Hannah@leg.wa.gov

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 26th DISTRICT Larry Seaquist

## HEALTH CARE HELP ON THE HORIZON?

Like so many other areas, our leaders in the other Washington need to help us if we're to make significant progress on the health care front. That said, there are things we can do, some of which I'll be pursuing this session in Olympia.

Last session a large coverage pool was created to eliminate the high costs of individual or small businesses buying insurance. We can do even better, bringing more uninsured workers and their children into this innovative partnership. Insured people are healthier, meaning they use the system less, and also use the ER less, where the public often picks up the bill.

We need more though. Costs continue to rise without a correlating increase in quality. Stay tuned this session to see what other proposals might help correct this imbalance.



## PROPERTY TAX CAP, OPTION TO PAY LATER



In November the Legislature met to reinstate the 1 percent cap on property tax rate increases.

Homeowners have come to count on this and I fully supported meeting to put it back in law.

We also cleared a way for some homeowners to put off paying some of their property taxes until the home is sold. I introduced the measure in the House. It isn't the solution for everyone, but for the families being taxed out of their home, it provides real help.

Just recently Sen. Kilmer, Rep. Lantz and I held a property tax forum, featuring House Finance Chair Ross Hunter and our county assessors. It started a good conversation, one I hope to continue this session when we'll look at more solutions to help more families.

## STRONGER SEX OFFENDER LAWS

Working on preventing these tragedies has been frustrating and rewarding at the same time. In Olympia, we hear conflicting reports on what works to prevent children from being victimized. I made the choice to trust prosecutors, victims advocates and law enforcement on what works.

Last session we passed laws to increase the time sex offenders can serve and increased supervision.

This session we'll go even further. Gov. Gregoire is proposing an additional \$8 million towards this problem.

We need strong programs and I'm encouraged by the ones proposed by the governor, which include:

- Increase monitoring of Level III sex offenders with electronic bracelets
- Significant increase of in-person verification of sex offender locations
- Keeping a file containing a DNA sample for all registered offenders

## BUILDING UP OUR COMMUNITIES



Public works projects have been taking care of basic community needs in our country since its beginning. This year I've introduced legislation, HB 2437, to continue this tradition by increasing funding to important investments across the state.

Locally, this package has \$10 million in funding for the outfall sewer project in Gig Harbor. As the region continues to fill in, it's important for the state to identify communities to help build infrastructure to get services to our neighbors. Also, there is \$1.3 million for sewer expansion in the Karcher Creek Sewer District.



*"We are at an important moment in the history of our state and our democracy. The presidential campaign is offering the country a wide range of choices. But the most urgent decisions are those confronting us here at home: reforming health care, controlling the cost of government, improving our education system. What are your ideas for making our communities, our state, and our democracy stronger than ever?"*

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**State Rep. Larry Seaquist**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

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